

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 03865 031615Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 /098 W
-----011412 031619Z /43

P R 031516Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0805
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 3865

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, BG, GT
SUBJ: BELIZE IN LUCAS' INAUGURAL AND ELSEWHERE

REF: GUATEMALA 3838 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT LUCAS' JULY 1 INAUGURAL ADDRESS HAD THIS TO
SAY ABOUT THE BELIZE DISPUTE:

(EMBASSY TRANSLATION) QUOTE: WE SHALL NOT RELAX IN DEFENSE
OF OUR LEGITIMATE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD
TO BELIZE; WHILE WE SHALL BE FIRM IN MAINTAINING OUR CLAIMS,
WE SHALL ALSO ASSUME CIVILIZED POSITIONS WITH A VIEW TO
ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL AND NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WHICH TAKES
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INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE BELIZEANS WITHOUT ACTING
BEHIND THE BACKS OF THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE. IT IS THEY, IN
THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WHO WILL RATIFY OR RECTIFY WHAT MY GOVERN-
MENT MAY DECIDE REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF A DECENT AND
WORTHY FORMULA FOR GUATEMALA. END QUOTE

2. LUCAS' UPBEAT STATEMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A REAFFIRMATION OF

THE PUBLIC POSITION ARRIVED AT BY THE LAUGERUD GOVERNMENT, AND CLOSELY PARALLELS PREVIEW WE AND BRITISH RECEIVED FROM NEW FONMIN CASTILLO VALDEZ (REFTEL). LUCAS HAD STUDIOUSLY REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF BELIZE IN HIS CAMPAIGN AND IN THE INTERVAL SINCE HIS ELECTION.

3. THE ANNUAL JUNE 30 ARMY DAY ADDRESS, DELIVERED THIS YEAR BY GENERAL RENE MENDOZA, WAS NOTEWORTHY ONLY FOR THE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE WHATEVER TO BELIZE. THIS SILENCE CONTRASTS WITH THE JINGOISM OF LAST YEAR'S SPEECH WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO HEIGHTENED TENSIONS ON BOTH SIDES.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL REACTION YET TO JULY 1 UPI REPORT WHICH HAS GUATEMALA'S AMBASSADOR TO OAS CASTILLO ARRIOLA REVEALING THAT THE JUST INSTALLED VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT VILLAGRAN KRAMER MET RECENTLY WITH GEORGE PRICE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT THE GOG HOPES TO HOLD NEXT NEGOTIATING ROUND IN BARBADOS. CASTILLO PURPORTEDLY CONTEMPLATED POSSIBLE AGREEMENT THERE TO BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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